

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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R 261303Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8206
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE BE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 01475

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, PEPR, MT
SUBJECT: MINTOFF'S DIALOGUE WITH THE EUROPEANS

REF: VALLETTA 1344

1. OUR LOCAL SOURCES STILL LACK PRECISE INFORMATION BUT WE GATHER THAT MAY 18-19 FRENCH/ITALIAN TALKS IN ROME WITH THE MALTESE ON LANGUAGE OF THE NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE WENT WELL. FOREIGN SECRETARY ABELA TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD ACHIEVED SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT ON THE LANGUAGE BUT (REITERATING A PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED POSITION) THE GOM WAS NOT PREPARED TO COMPLETE THESE DISCUSSIONS UNTIL THERE WAS ALSO AGREEMENT ON THE ECONOMIC AID PORTION OF THE PACKAGE.

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2. THIS IS CONFIRMED BY BOTH THE ITALIAN AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS HERE, ALTHOUGH NEITHER OF THEM WAS PRESENT AT THESE TALKS AND NEITHER HAS YET SEEN THE PRESENT TEXT OF THE NEUTRALITY DECLARATION AND GUARANTEE. ACCORDING TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR GELADE, AN IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT DURING THE TALKS WAS IN GETTING MALTESE AGREEMENT THAT THE DECLARATIONS ON THE PART OF THE FOUR GUARANTORS (FRANCE,

ITALY, LIBYA AND ALGERIA) WERE TO BE IDENTICAL.

3. REGARDING THE QUESTION OF ACCESS BY FOREIGN MILITARY VESSELS TO MALTESE FACILITIES (REFTEL), ITALIAN AMBASSADOR DA-RIN TELLS US THAT HE UNDERSTANDS FROM ROME THAT US POSITION PREFERRING EXPLICIT SUPERPOWER EXCLUSION FROM ACCESS RATHER THAN MORE GENERAL EARLIER FORMULATION IS ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE DRAFT. (WE HOPE TO SEE ACTUAL TEXT NEXT WEEK WHEN ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS IT.)

4. NONE OF OUR SOURCES APPEARS TO HAVE ANY IDEA AT THIS POINT WHEN TALKS MIGHT BEGIN ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BETWEEN THE EUROPEANS AND THE GOM. BOTH THE FRENCH AND ITALIANS HERE EMPHASIZE THAT THEY EXPECT THE GERMANS TO TAKE THE LEAD ON SOUNDINGS AMONG THE NINE, PURSUANT TO AN INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING OF THIS KIND APPARENTLY REACHED DURING TALKS AMONG THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS DURING THE LAST MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING OF THE NINE IN COPENHAGEN. GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAUTHAL DOES NOT DISPUTE THIS POSITION BUT SAYS HE IS UNAWARE OF ANY INITIATIVES YET TAKEN OR PLANNED BY BONN. A LETTER TO SCHMIDT FROM MINTOFF SOME SIX WEEKS BACK ASKING THE GERMANS ABOUT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS STILL UNANSWERED. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR DA-RIN SAYS THAT HE ASSUMES GOI WILL TRY TO PIN DOWN GENSCHER ON THIS SUBJECT WHEN HE VISITS ROME IN JUNE. LAINGEN
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